

March 7, 2014

Ms. Marlene Dortch
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Expression of Interest Letter – WC Docket 10-90, Connect America Fund

Dear Ms. Dortch,

This letter is submitted to express interest in participating in the Rural Broadband Experiments. UniTel, Inc. (“UniTel”) is an incumbent rate of return local exchange carrier (“RoR LEC”) serving rural consumers for over 100 years in an area of rural central Maine with an average density of sixteen (16) customers per square mile. Our track record proves the UniTel has the experience and dedication to rural consumers needed to successfully provide next generation high-speed, scalable, IP-based networks in rural high-cost areas.

Broadband networks, particularly high-speed networks, are expensive to build and cost recovery typically requires multiple years in rural high-cost areas. But providing access to such networks is critical for rural America. Our schools, healthcare facilities, other anchor institutions, and private citizens require these services to ensure economic development and opportunity for all Americans. To that end, UniTel will take all steps to ensure our experiments maximize accessibility for all.

UniTel is interested in exploring the acceptance of consumers to the services that could be provided using an IP-based network which has high-speed broadband as its primary offering. Other services such as voice would be positioned as “applications” utilizing this network and would not be required to purchase broadband. One could view this vision as a complete inversion of the traditional ILEC offerings.

This experiment will require the construction of Fiber-To-The-Home (FTTH) facilities. UniTel will require a reasonable amount of time to develop a complete plan, including the Census Tract(s) to be included, and determine the costs involved. A complete and timely proposal will be filed. In addition, UniTel is exploring opportunities to partner with other providers to assist them to accomplish the goals of their experiments in the State of Maine.

UniTel thanks the FCC for the opportunity to participate in this process. Any questions about this letter of interest should be directed to me at the contact information below.

Sincerely,



Laurie L. Osgood
President & CEO – UniTel, Inc.